



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114-2119

Mitt Romney
GOVERNOR

Kerry Healey
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Stephen R. Pritchard
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 9, 2006

CONTACT: Vanessa Gulati

617-626-1119

EMERGENCY REPAIRS SET TO BEGIN ON MAGAZINE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington today announced today that emergency repairs on the Magazine Pedestrian Bridge are set to begin. The footbridge, located on Memorial Drive in Cambridge, was damaged when a truck owned by the Massachusetts Bay Commuter Rail (MBCR) carrying a 40-ton crane slammed into it on May 3rd. The resulting damage has kept the bridge closed due to concerns about its structural integrity.

DCR engineers and consultants found substantial damage to the main steel beam, making crossing the bridge unsafe. They also found damage to the ramp supports, and cracks along the concrete on the main deck. Repairs for Magazine Pedestrian Bridge will require significant shoring and stabilization before the structure can be reopened.

DCR plans to begin repairs on the footbridge at 8:00 p.m. Saturday June 10, 2006 and will continue through 5:00 a.m. Monday June 12, 2006. Weather permitting and without additional damage uncovered during the process, repairs are expected to be finished by early Monday morning when the bridge will once again be open to pedestrian traffic.

To ensure public safety, a DCR ranger will be stationed at the footbridge on the Westbound side of Memorial Drive on Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to direct pedestrians to the nearest crossing. The Magazine Beach swimming pool is scheduled to open for the season on June 17th and the footbridge will be back in operation well before that scheduled opening.

Commissioner Burrington said, "The Magazine Bridge is vitally important to the public safety of pedestrians in the Cambridgeport and Riverside neighborhoods. DCR will have repair crews working around the clock to open the footbridge as soon as possible and to ensure safe passage over Memorial Drive for the upcoming summer season."

###